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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for a wish to have rejected articles returned, they nust in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Governor Black.

We observe that all predictions as to the personnel of the delegation at large from this State to the national Republican convention include the name of FRANK S. BLACK as one of the four delegates.

The selection of this gentleman for such a position will be an appropriate and deserved honor. He possesses elements of leadership which merit further recognition at the hands of his party. He is a man of higher ideals than many leaders who might be named, who have managed by questionable means to obtain a prominence and exert an influence which are far from beneficial to the Republican cause. In the few political speeches which he has made since his retirement from office he has manifested a broad grasp of party questions, and an intellectual force and acumen capable of affording great assistance to Republicanism; and it behooves the party to put such men forward and let ome of his rivals retire into the shade.

Moreover, FRANK S. BLACK is a man of integrity; and we confidently predict that this characteristic must be made more influential in Republican leadership in the State of New York if the party hopes to prevail here in the coming Presidential election.

The Russian Retreat.

The Russians are reported as evacuating various parts of Manchuria, and the determination of ALEXIEFF to withdraw to Harbin and leave Port Arthur to the vicissitudes of a siege is confirmed.

This has all the appearance of being the beginning of the Russian retreat and those who are familiar with history know that the Russian retreat is infinitely more to be dreaded than the Russian advance.

From this on, it is only reasonable to infer, the really arduous part of Japan's work will commence.

Panama Affairs.

There is no reason to doubt that on Tuesday, Jan. 23, many more votes than the United States Senate for the ratificathe Republic of Panama. What will then be the situation on the Isthmus. before the task of completing the waterway is undertaken?

by a constitutional convention will be- over, far more difficult for a woman to Dr. AMADOR, the leading member of the in China than it was in the Eastern Roman provisional Junta, will be inaugurated Empire, for the rule that the female sex as the first President of Panama.

Liberals predominated, but they did not long annals of the Middle Kingdom. Conservative members of Panama's no change should be made in the arrange- authentic may be briefly summarized. ments by which not only has Roman Catholicism been recognized as the established religion of the State, but pecuniary support has been given from the national exchequer to the episcopate and the clergy. The Liberals would not and priests in their ecclesiastical capacireligion of the new republic, and to permit priests to receive stipends for performing educational and charitable functions. They were also willing to insert in the Constitution a provision that the Isthmian Government should furnish the money needed for the erection and maintenance of a Catholic seminary, and for church missions to the Indian. More than this the Clericals could not secure; and, had they offered unyielding obstruction to the adoption of an organic law, they might have provoked the Liberals to insist on an absolute severance of Church and State.

Not only have the Liberals exercised of Panama's organic law, but for some time, at all events, they will continue to dominate the Legislature; for the members of the constitutional convention are to constitute the first National

The laws most urgently required will be those providing for the maintenance public which lies outside of the tenmile canal zone. As to the circulating medium, it is expected that the Legislature will either authorize a coinage dentical in value and denomination with our own; or, what might prove more convenient, declare United States coins the legal currency. The almost worthless paper money of Colombia is, of course, ne longer current on the Isthmus. As by the treaty to be ratified next week territorial integrity of the Republic, and as the Isthmian Constitution authorizes the United States to intervene in the naval purposes may obviously be reand a few score of soldiers. The mainte- nine-year-old son of Prince TUAN as the nance of order in those sections of the heir-apparent. It is well known that this

Commonwealth that lie outside of the canal belt will, no doubt, be relegated to a police force.

After the Canal treaty has been ratified there will be something for us to do in the way of legislation before proceeding to exercise the rights accruing under it. We are informed that in order to avert any legal controversy respecting the scope of the authority conferred on the Executive by the Spooner act, Congress will be forthwith requested to authorize the payment to Panama of the \$10,000,000 for which the Canal treaty provides; and, also, the issuance of bonds for the construction of the waterway. There is no reason to doubt that the authorization will be given without delay.

Congress will also be invited to say what substitute shall be adopted for military law within the ten-mile canal zone, which will pass under our jurisdiction as soon as the ratifications of the treaty shall have been exchanged. Congress may decide that the existing laws of the United States shall be applied in the canal zone, notwithstanding the difference of racial conditions; or, if this shall be deemed inexpedient, it may enact a special code of laws for the district; or it may save time and trouble, and avoid mistakes, by creating an Isthmian Commission, which shall be distinct from that charged with the construction of the canal, but which, like the Philippine Commission, shall have power to promulgate and execute laws, subject. of course, to the subsequent approval of our Federal Legislature.

It is also manifest that, before we begin work on the waterway, Congress ought to pass the legislation needed to enable us to devise and carry out adequate sanitary regulations on the Isthmus. This is a matter in which delay would be a crime.

It is also pointed out by our Washington correspondent that the power given us by treaty to exercise within the canal zone the right of eminent domain-i. e., the right to condemn private property for public uses, imposes upon Congress the corresponding duty of formulating betimes the regulations by which appraisement shall be made and awards

dereliction of duty should it adjourn without completing the legislation required for the safe and effective resumption of work on the interoceanic water-

The Wonderful Career of China's Empress-Regent.

The death of the Empress-Regent of China was reported yesterday from Canton. If the report prove true, one of the most picturesque and memorable feminine careers of which history bears record is at an end. Since CATHERINE II., no woman has evinced such a remarkable gift for governing; and, unlike the was not born a princess, and entered on her arduous rôle without any of the the needed two-thirds will be given in aptitudes derivable from education. If we keep in view at once the lowly station tion of the Canal treaty concluded with from which she sprang and the height to which she ascended, we must recog- and Russia. Circumstances have made nize that her only counterpart is to be and what legislation will be requisite found in the wife of JUSTINIAN, the Byzantine Empress THEODORA, whose singular vicissitudes are recounted with To-day the organic law just adopted much zest by GIBBON. It was, morecome operative in the new republic, and acquire and keep political ascendency must not be invested with supreme au-It is known that in the convention the | thority had but twice been broken in the

carry out their original purpose of We shall never see an exhaustive biogseparating Church and State. With a raphy of the Empress-Regent until the view of averting discord in the infant history of the reigns of her husband and Commonwealth, they made considerable of his successors, which it is the business concessions to the Conservatives or of the Censors to compile with unflinch-Clericals. For about twenty years the ing truthfulness, shall have been pub-United States of Colombia have been in lished, and the publication will not take the hands of the Clerical party, and the place until the Manchu dynasty shall have been overthrown. Meanwhile, the constitutional convention desired that facts which are accepted as more or less

We first hear of TSI AN as the favorite concubine, but not one of the regular wives, of the Emperor HIEN FUNG, who in 1850 succeeded the Emperor Taou KWANG, and who himself died in 1861. The next sovereign, Tung CHE, was agree to provide salaries for Bishops only 5 years old when he nominally succeeded his father HIEN FUNG, and for ties, but consented to acknowledge the the following twelve years the Govern-Roman Catholic Church as the prevailing ment of China was in the hands of two women, one of whom was the Empress-Dowager, while the other was TSI AN, who, since the death of her feminine co-regent, has, practically, been the sole mistress of the Middle Kingdom.

It is true that in 1873 TUNG CHE attained his majority and began ostensibly to rule, but two years later he died without issue, under suspicious circumstances. As, by the organic law of the dynasty, an Emperor's heir must be younger than he from whom the inheritance comes, TUNG CHE, having no younger brothers, had to be succeeded by one of the sons of his father's younger brothers. The choice of the two Emcontrolling influence on the framing presses-Regent fell on the infant son of Prince CHUNG, seventh son of TAO KWANG, which infant son became ostensibly Emperor under the name of

KWANG SU. After a minority which, on various pre-Su was permitted by the Empress-Regent, who, for some time, had been the of order and regulating the circulating exclusive possessor of authority, to medium in all that part of the new Re- assume the sovereignty. No sooner did premises in his life. He refused to answer, reorganize the Chinese system of education by the adoption of Western methods and ideals than he was compelled by a with him in his imperial functions. This compulsory invitation was regarded as tantamount to abdication, and TsI AN was ever afterward, as she had been before Kwang Su's accession, the virtual the United States have guaranteed the ruler of China. It was, for a time, supposed that she would feel insecure so long as Kwang Su should live, and it was predicted that we should soon hear event of internal troubles, the Panama of his death. As a matter of fact, his Legislature's outlay for military and poor health and alleged inability to conduct the business of State was the prestricted to two or three revenue cutters text assigned for the designation of the

appointment has been cancelled since the of the United States, provides that no suppression of the Boxer rebellion.

Whether the Empress-Regent connived at the Boxer uprising against foreigners and was implicated in the attack on the legations at Pekin is a question to which not even diplomatists who were residing at the time in the Chinese capital seem prepared to give a positive answer. There are those disposed to think that the Empress-Regent countenanced, if she did not incite, the attack upon the legations, but that after the capture of Tientsin she wavered and was not unwilling to see the consequences of the crime averted by the pro-foreign party, of which Prince CHING and the great Yangtse Viceroys LIU KUN WI and CHANG CHIH TUNG were regarded as representatives. To what extent, if at all, she should be held accountable for the second reaction. exemplified in the murder of two proforeign members of the Tsung-li-Yamen (Board of Foreign Affairs), is not even vet determined.

According to another theory. Prince TUAN, father of the child who then was heir-apparent, used the influence derived from his official position at the head of the Tsung-li-Yamen, a place to which he had been raised in the spring of 1900, to depress the pro-foreign party and to compel the Empress-Regent to encourage the Boxer uprising and authorize the attack on the legations. According to the latter theory, which, at the time, was accepted by the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan, and which has since been adopted by all the Powers as a working hypothesis, Prince TUAN was a usurper and the Empress-Regent was a victim of duress and coercion.

for the relief of the legations were not technically at war with the Pekin Government, but that their military operathe theory of her innocence would be the wampum of its ancestors. accepted, TSI AN returned from Singan-Congress will be guilty of a grave fu to Pekin, and had since treated the representatives of foreign Powers with extreme cordiality.

The death of the Empress-Regent will bring the treaty Powers face to face with a problem of exceeding difficulty, which they evaded or postponed by assenting to her resumption of supreme authority. Shall they permit the nomi- just about enough to equip an opera box nal Emperor Kwang Su, whose intellect for a single evening. The deep obligais said to be enfeebled, to be reinstated in actual sovereignty, or shall they try apparent. The price of diamonds has to find in the Manchu reigning family been heavily advanced during the last a fitter custodian of power, or-what is year or two; but it is simply appalling least probable—shall they yield to the to think what the price would have wishes of many progressive Chinese been without the South African supply. and seek an acceptable candidate for Society-American, English and conti-Russian sovereign, the Empress TSI AN the throne among the descendants of nental, should daily thank heaven for the long-deposed Ming dynasty?

This will be an urgent and a knotty the end of the contest between Japan a load for a medium sized freight can the life of this extraordinary woman, who rose from a hovel to a throne, of peculiar importance to the interests of the Manchu dynasty, if not also to those of the Chinese Empire.

An Attempt to Measure the President

Mr. Francis E. Leupp's book, called "The Man Roosevelt," will make an excellent campaign biography, if it is intended as such. It presents about as good a portrait as ought to be expected of a conscientious artist whose subject won't sit still for two whole minutes at a time. Its attempts at characterization are friendly but unterrified, its treatment of obvious Rooseveltian weaknesses is humorously tolerant, its anecdotes are picturesque if not always convincing, and its general tone is by no means that of slop-over.

In this era of vivid compliments, with such master practitioners at work as Secretary SHAW, the German Ambassador. Senator QUARLES and the Hon. JACOB A. RIIS, it is somewhat refreshing to find a eulogist writing like this:

"Mr. ROOSEVELT fairly lives in an atmos of superlatives. He will speak of a 'perfectly good man with a perfectly honest motive,' when all that he intends to say is that the man is wellmeaning. He is 'delighted' when most of us are pleased. The latest visitor is 'just the very man wanted to see,' and ' nothing I have heard in a ong time has interested me so much 'as the passing bit of information."

This is worth knowing, and worth emembering. Likewise of psychological value is Mr. LEUPP's general estimate of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S intellectuals:

" President ROOSEVELT is not a genius. He is a nan of no extraordinary natural capacity.

If Mr. LEUPP is right, the German Ambassador was clearly wrong in classing Mr. ROOSEVELT with the Kaiser. For what he says of THEODORE could not be safely said, in Germany, of WILLIAM.

Immunity of Gamblers as Witnesses.

In the prosecution of RICHARD A. CAN-FIELD last year for conducting a gambling house in this city, the District Attorney endeavored to prove his case by the testimony of one JESSE LEWISOHN texts, was unusally protracted, Kwang as a person who had visited the premises in which gaming was alleged to have been carried on. Mr. LEWISOHN was asked whether he had ever been on those he evince, however, an inclination to on the ground that his answer might tend to criminate him, and his refusal was sustained by the Court of Appeals, notwithstanding the provision of the palace revolution to invite Tsi AN to Penal Code that testimony given by a leave her retirement and to cooperate witness in a proceeding for the violation of the chapter relating to gaming cannot be received against such witness upon any criminal investigation or proceeding.

The language of the Penal Code on this subject is as follows: " No person shall be excused from giving testimony upon any investigation or proceeding for a violation of this chapter upon the ground that such testimony would tend to convict him of a crime; but such testimony cannot be received against him upon any criminal investigation or

proceeding." The Constitution of the State, like that

person "shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself." The Court of Appeals decided that under our laws as they now exist relating to

gambling it is a violation of this provision of the Constitution to compel a person to give testimony tending to show that he was a gambler himself. The court further held that the Legislature had not given such a witness sufficient immunity to render him compellable to testify by providing that his testimony could not be received against him in any other criminal case. It was declared in substance that before the court could compel Mr. LEWISOHN to tell what he saw in the alleged gambling house of CANFIELD, he must be secured against any criminal prosecution whatever for any crime which his testimony might

indicate that he had committed. The proposed amendment to the Penal Code which District Attorney JEROME is now advocating before the Legislature is designed to broaden the statute in accordance with this decision. If it is enacted it will enable the District Attorney, in prosecuting a person charged with maintaining a gambling house, to compel those who have played there to tell all about what they have heard and seen on the premises.

We can see no valid objection to such legislation. It is much more important to stamp out places at which gambling is regularly carried on than to punish individuals as common gamblers.

Tons of Diamonds.

It is estimated that the total world production of diamonds up to date approximates 85,000,000 carats. As we are not in the habit of weighing our This hypothesis was convenient, for diamonds by the ton, we are in some it warranted the assertion that the doubt concerning the proper system of Powers that took part in the expedition | computation, whether troy or avoirdupois, long ton or short ton. According to the system used by those who do weigh their diamonds in ton quantities, tions in the province of Chili would, the result would be in the neighborhood if successful, have the effect of deliver- of twenty or twenty-five tons of sparking the Empress-Regent from unlawful lers now appearing as factors in the joys pressure. It is well known that, acting and the miseries of a world which has on the well grounded assumption that substituted diamonds for the beads and

The regions contributing to this supply and the percentage of their contribution appear as follows: South Africa, 81.5 per cent.; Brazil, 18 per cent.; and the remaining .5 per cent., divided among Borneo, India, New South Wales, and British Guiana, with North America and Russia supplying specimens. The last two of these countries have furnished tion of society to South Africa is fully Kimberley and Jagersfontein.

We are unable to give the cubic measquestion, which the Powers concerned urement of the total collection, but so far would gladly have adjourned until after as weight is concerned it would make

> The Finance Department's investigators have been looking over the public school system to find where it would be possible to cut down expenses without injuring the schools. They recommend that the teaching of physical training, cooking, sewing, manual training, drawing and constructive on these studies be applied, with \$145,000 to be saved by reducing the supervising staff, to the te ching of the three Rs. The pupils under 10 years of age now spend less than half their time studying English. penmanship, geography, history and mathematics-a fact that shows the uncommonness of New York's common schools.

> The amendments to the Liquor Tax law proposed in the Legislature by the Hon. JOHN RAINES amount only to a bill to compel State and local authorities to perform their duties completely. It is desirable that the laws regulating the sale of liquor should be enforced strictly, but the same is true of all other laws. There is law enough on the statute books now to close every "dive" in the State, and the new amendments are therefore superfluous.

Senator RAINES might broaden the scope of his measure, and name it "A bill to compel executive officials to do their work. So changed it might be worth passing.

The Gettysburg Address.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The inquiry

of THE SUN correspondent "T. H. S." in regard to the various versions of Lincoln's Gettysburg address is answered by the late John G. Nicolay in an le contributed by him to the Century magazine of February, 1894. Mr. Nicolay therein states that there are three sources of authority for the Gettysburg address, as follows: 1. The original autograph manuscript draft ten by Mr. Lincoln partly at Washington and

partly at Gettysburg. 2. The version made by the shorthand rep on the stand at Gettysburg when the President delivered it, which was telegraphed and was printed following morning.

3. The revised copy made by the President a few days after his return to Washington, upon a careful comparison of his original draft and the printed newspaper version with his own recollec It may be added that the original autograph copy of the address, which has become the standard text, was furnished by Mr. Lincoln to the Soldiers and Sallors' Fair held in the city of Baltimore in April, 1864, and was a few years ago in the posses-sion of Col. Alexander Bliss of Washington, D. C., who secured it for lithographing in a volume to be sold for the benefit of the fair. A previous copy made by Mr. Lincoln, written on both sides of a letter sheet, and which therefore could not be graphed, was retained by George Bane the historian, and on his death passed into the ossession of the Lenox Library of New York. NEW YORK, Feb. 18. ISAAC MARKEN

Aid for a Republican Building. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I fully agree ith the plan suggested in THE SUN of the 10th in of Mr. George Fentrick, that the great Republican party should have a permanent building of its own, with a large hall, committee rooms, &c., and perhaps a number from which rentals could be derived thus making it self-sustaining and prove a source of revenue also. It does seem strange that no such building has been provided, and in seconding THE Sun's suggestion and voicing the unanime pressions of my many friends, I beg to offer my aid financially so soon as the matter assumes a prac-JESSS W. FOSTER

Two Sizes. He hired a cosy little flat-

The hall was two by four-You couldn't swing the fabled cas Inside his parlor door-The kitchen was a dry goods box, The bedroom just a bin That no free-born raccoon or for Would dream of sleeping in But when the rental was disc It's size o'erwhelmed him quite-It hid all else from sight. LUBANA W. SERLOOM

HOME RULE IN INTERNATIONAL

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Home rule is again in the political atmosphere of New York. When I had finished reading an excellent letter of a day or two ago written on the topic by Mr. Carter, I asked myself. Why does not some one endeavor o apply home rule. State rights and community independence to international poli-The source and sanction of the lav of nations have been said to be the consen of each one. How many nations are now existent that are, in theory, as independent and sovereign as the United States? Are there not more than a baker's dozen in the western hemisphere, excluding Cuba and Panama, which are "tied" nations? The United States has assumed a primacy, but yet each is in theory as independent and sovereign as she is. How many independent States like Congo are in Africa? We know of at least four in the Far East, count-

nations jurally binding on each and all? It will be said, it has been said and is to-day said, that there is not, and never has been, a law between all the fifty nations, more or less, which acknowledge no common superior and no common Executive. But yet too big." And Japan is willing to be Engthe men who made the Constitution of the Japan lies off the coast of Asia in about the game relative position as Great Britan less, which acknowledge no common su-

in the Old World. Who in these days real-

do to one of the family any act, a consent to the doing of which cannot be traced up to the nation to be constrained.

A modern purpose disregards that rule by elevating into supreme power one nation in the New World, a few great nations in the Old World, and resting their power on the theory that international jurisprudence is not national in origin, but cosmopolitan; that nations are not independent, but interdependent, that authority comes down from a few and does not ascend from all, and that thus a half dozen powerful nations are to have universal empire. Out of that theory has emerged the strange doctrine of international eminent domain and collective civilization. Under it, a few powerful nations are undertaking to operate in the Far East by way of putting China under protectorship and guardianship, without first asking for her consent. The United States has had occasion

deal, in a judicial way, with that theory. A luminous opinion was delivered in 1812 by Chief Justice Marshall—exceptional be- least one of them toward the use of opium cause, as he said, he was "exploring an unbeaten path, with few if any aids from precedents, or written law." He began by affirming, as fundamental, that "the world 'is composed of distinct sovereignties. possessing equal rights and equal inde

The precise question before the Supreme Court was whether or not it had ordinary jurisdiction to try the claim of an American citizen to a public armed vessel of France. then in the port of Philadelphia, upon the averment that the vessel had been unlawfully taken from him by France, as prize of war, work (?), music, German and French be and then made a part of the French Navy.

ciple, that a foreign sovereign with whom the United States was at peace, his diplomatic agents and the vessels of his navy have extraterritoriality in our jurisdiction. Its premises were set forth in these two sentences, which with the reasoning of the court show that if the United States had rights in Colombia, or has in China, such as have been recently asserted, they must flow from a consent either expressed in a treaty, or in diplomatic understandings, or otherwise clearly implied. The Chief Justice said in the case of The Exchange (7 Cranch, 116):

All exceptions, therefore, to the full and complet power of a nation within its own territories, must be traced up to the consent of the nation itself They can flow from no other legitimate source. That is the essence of Home Rule!

Has China given her consent to an inter-

national police over herself? NEW YORK, Feb. 19.

RUSSIA AT THE BAR OF OPINION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Russia has much to answer for. The suppression of Finnish liberty is the last and not the least of her sins. Her despotic form of government is almost a necessity in the presen state of her people. Let us judge her fairly on the present occasion. Americans are bound to do her justice, for there can be no doubt as to the moral aid which she rendered in the civil war. As a great inland Empire she wants an ice-free port. She has been debarred of this at the Dardanelle by the jealous fear of Great Britain for the route to India. She now seeks it on the Pacific. Her motive so far is legitimate. It is not merely territorial rapine.

British Russophobia is morbidly suspicious. In 1841 Palmerston, the chief of Russophobes, took it into his head that Russian intrigue was active in Afghanistan and that Dost Mahomed, the ruler of Cabul was conspiring with Russia. Sir Alexander Burnes was sent as an envoy to Cabul. His report negatived Palmerston's view. Palmerston nevertheless insisted on the invasion of Afghanistan. A British army was lost. There was a call for explanations. Sir Alexander Burnes had perished in the outbreak; but his despatches were produced and seemed to bear out Palmerston's view. Some years afterward authentic copies of the despatches came to light, and it then appeared that the copy presented to Parliament had been mutilated. But Palmerston was then all-powerful, and defied FAIR PLAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In a paper printed in Coraopolis, Pa., I saw an advertisem ent his morning of a man who sold "Staple and Fancy Groceries." He also mentions, among other things, "All Kinds of Green Goods." Does this NEW CASTLE, Pa., Feb. 17.

Shooting Giraffes for Boot Leather.

From the London Matl. Two new sub-species of giraffe have been discov-ered by Major Powell Cotton, and one of them is represented by a magnificent pair of horns now set p in the Natural History Museum at South Ken

Major Powell Cotton sarcastically remarked at a meeting of the Zoological Society on Tuesday that while naturalists are forbidden to collect giraff specimens for scientific purposes, the natives of East Africa are allowed to shoot them for boot leather. One race of giraffe, the Cape species, has become extinct in modern times.

IN DEFENCE OF RUSSIA. By a Rriend of Japan.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Amid the vaporing gabble of ill informed war correspondents and other noisy persons, refreshing to hear the voice of a sane man entitled "Russia's Right to American Sym-

pathy," in last Saturday's Sun. A great country, Russia, engaged in the gigantic task of civilizing Northeastern Asia (a task not unlike our own in the far West), is suddenly obliged to stop work in order to repel attack. Why? Not because she had done anything which she had not a perfect right to do. On the contrary, she is performing a work for which all the nation should be grateful to her. Why then? Simply because certain Powers, Great Britain being the chief, think she is "getting too big." They will probably think the same thing of us some day.

Nobody has a higher opinion of the Japan Nobody has a higher opinion of the Japanese than I have. Since my first visit to that beautiful country twenty-five years ago (which visit has been repeated many times). I have watched with interest their rapid rise to power. They have all the military virtues. They are brave, swift aggressive. They possess good ships, and know how to handle them; being islanders, they are accustomed to the water from their infancy. They have trained for this war with all the ardor of a football team for its championship game, and they are "as fit as a fiddle." It will be good practice for them, and they will probably make things unpleasant for Russia for a while.

But what in the world has Russia done to ing Corea as one. Excluding the neutralized, the dependent, interdependent and confederated, there must be thirty others izes that all must consent to make a law of

the men who made the Constitution of the United States recognized such a law, and the Supreme Court has repeatedly said it is a part of the law of the land. Congress can punish as criminal a disobedience of it by the President. Shall we say there is no such law? Is not the President bound to find it and obey it, the same for Colombia in the New World as for China, Corea, Japan and Russia in the Old World? Can the law exist and yet be put aside by our President or Congress because the United States must build a canal at Panama?

The United States has heretofore asserted very definite and positive ideas regarding recognition of new States, neutrality and non-intervention, and treated them as the corpus juris inter gentes especially in times of peace, when there are no prize courts to interpret and decide.

If home rule shall be applied in international politics, as attempted in New York politics, it will compel the nations not to do to one of the family any act, a consent

the Russian peasant. Look at roland and Finland.

To this I answer: The form of government which suits one country does not necessarily suit another; and is the condition of the Russian peasant so much worse than the condition of the Irish peasant has been? As for Poland and Finland, all conquering nations are liable to get themselves disliked by those whom they conquer. Do the Poles and Finns hate Russia any more than the Boers and the Irish hate England?

ARTHUR WEBB. ARTHUR WEBB. OVERBROOK, Pa., Feb. 16.

"BEWARE THE FIRST SMOKE." Little Loh Ah Soo's Excellent Advice on the Use of Optum.

Charles S. Buchanan, the principal of the Mission in Singapore recently offered a prize to the pupils in the three higher grades of his school for the best essay on the "Use of In doing so it was Mr. Buchanan's object to gather information for the benefit of the Philippine Opium Commission. In order that the work of the pupils in his school may be submitted to a larger audience Mr. Buchanan has forwarded to THE SUN one of the essays, from which the English style acquired by his pupils and the proper attitude of at may be judged. This is the essay of Loh Ah Soo, uncorrected, on which a mark of 85 out of a possible 100 was made:

OPIUM. Oplum is obtained from the juice of the poppy fruits. The poppy plant is a native of warm countries. It is chiefly grown in India and China. It grows to a height of from one to six feet. Its leaves are oblong shape, and are commonly smooth and green.

The opium is the Chinese as liquor to the Euro

peans. If a man smokes it, his body will be spoilt and it brings uneasiness to his mind. It is very foolish for a man to smoke optum, because it not only spoils his body but generally brings shame upon his family and causes him to be hated by other Once there was an opium smoker, who had no

order to get it. I shall describe to you the reason why the Chinese smoke oplum. It is becaus they think that the oplum may be used as a med icine, which can heal their slight diseases and can help thom in digesting their food.

I think not, but I fancy that it is a kind of poison

There are many harmful things which a man get om it, such as his eyes get dim, his heart dries his limbs get feeble, his countenance gets ungrace ful, and his lungs are greatly injured. So dear boys take my counsel and do not tout the onlum. Keep these words in your minds as

long as you live, "Beware the first smoke."

LOH AH Soo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read

with great interest a letter in your paper of last Sunday on the servant problem by one who signed himself "Independent." It seems that there are others than the mistresses who like to gossip on the subject, but is such conversation within a gen-When he was a boy he was taught to mind his

own business, but he seems to have outgrown those early teachings. He deserves for a premium a few highly colored, rustling silk petticoats and the mistress's peacock feathers he has tussled so hard to save. It would be well for our independent philosophe

to find out if those whom he calls servants are treated well before going into further details. One in every hundred may be. But what about the ninety-nine others, who are never considered in either food, comfort or respect, though in many cases the employees are far superior to their mis-tresses? This is the case, though the mistresses try their best to convince their employees that they are nobodies. What can be expected from such servants? They have the name and may as well have the game.

It is no wonder that so many of those girls start on a wayward road to degradation and ruin when even such people are looked to as somebodies simply because of the mere rustle of silks. Is that all that is necessary to make the lady?

We are all servants in this world. Let your fussy correspondent remember that "all is not gold that ONE WHO KNOWS. NEW YORK, Feb. 18.

Our ostal Service.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str: Is there no possible chance of the postal arrangements of this country being put on a satisfactory basis? register a letter at 6:15 and was informed that no

letters were registered after 6 o'clock. 'I had to go to the Produce Exchange branch in order to have to the Frontier States of the General Post Office before branch offices is, I believe, unique. Is it impossible to obtain competent manage-BROOKLYN, Feb. 18. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: On Friday,

Feb. 12, at 10:30 o'clock A. M., I mailed three letters addressed to Albany, in the branch Post Office on evening, Feb. 14, at 6 o'clock, I mailed one letter to Albany in the mall box on Amsterdam avenue a 107th street. This letter was delivered to the pe m avenue at son addressed on the first Monday Albany. The three letters mailed on Friday morning were delivered in Albany on the next delivery! Our postal department does very well in a retail

He Was Planted Long Ago. To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: If there is an agricultural section of the "Immortals," will you kindly consider William Turnipseed, a farmer of Garden, Pickens county, Ala., as a candidate for

trade, but in large transactions it is rather feeble.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18. From the Book of Pairy Tales. The Sleeping Beauty had just been awakened. "Begobs!" she announced, "Gi'll hov yes know Ol'll git up whin Ol'm ready or lave!"

Fearing to intrude life's barsh realities on the infant mind, a different version has been introduced. Jack the Giant Killer put on his cap of wisdom. "You see," he explained, "it makes me know as much as a college youth thinks he knows."

Thus we can easily see how our beloved here was absolutely invincible.

SPOONER TO SUCCEED HANNA As Chairman of the Int

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 .- Senator Spooner, who was the father of the law authorizing the construction of the Isthmian canal by the Panama route, and since the negotiation of the canal treaty with Panama has been its most conspicuous advocate on the floor of the Senate, is to be chairman of the

Senate Committee on Interoceanic Canals, succeeding the late Senator Hanna. Mr. Spooner is now chairman of the Committee on Rules, which he will relinquish mittee on Rules, which he will relinquish in favor of Senator Mitchell, who, by the declination of Senator Platt of New York, is the ranking member of the canal cammittee. Mr. Mitchell, however, has long been an advocate of the Nicaragua route and consequently an opponent of the Panama route, although he voted for the treaty

On account of Mr. Mitchell's attitude on On account of Mr. Mitchell's attitude on the question, it was thought by the friends of the canal that Mr. Hanna's successor should be a pronounced advocate of the Panama route, and they had fixed upon Senator Kittredge, the fourth in rank the committee, who had been designated by the late chairman to act during his illness. Mr. Mitchell, however, insisted upon his right to the chairmanship through the Senata's unwritten rule of seniority. the Senate's unwritten rule of seniority, but has finally agreed to accept the desira-ble post at the head of the Rules Committee.

SOMETHING ABOUT HARBIN.

The Newest City in the World and One of the Most Remarkable of Towns.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: Now in the Far East, has moved his headquarters place becomes of special interest.

It is a new city in the heart of Manchuria, built by Russia, and is one of the world's greatest achievements in city construction Harbin is located on the Sungari River, at the point where the Manchurian branch of where the Chinese Eastern branch starts 350 miles west of Vladivostok and 600 miles north of Port Arthur. Its location is the geographical centre of Manchuria, and promses, says United States Consul Miller of Newchwang, to become the commercial centre as well. The city is surrounded on all sides for hundreds of miles with a rich and productive agricultural country producing corn, wheat, vegetables, and some fruits. Minerals and aber and great areas of grazing land also surround it.

The entire city is a Russian product just as much as though it were located in the heart of mitted to own land, construct buildings, or engage in any permanent enterprise. The city was constructed under the management of the Manchurian Raiiway Company by the Russian Government. The land for many miles in each direction has been secured so as to make it impossible for any foreign influence to obtain a foothold close to the city, and foreigners are not recognized as having any rights whatever, but are permitted there by sufferance. Here is an object lesson as to the way in which Russia will shut out foreign trade, foreign capital and foreign rights from all Manchuria and China, and all of the Far East which she has, or can get, in her grasp. In the present war, Japan is really righting for all the world, outside of Russia, to checkmate and destroy this inordinate Russian greed.

It was in 1900 that Harbin began to assume engage in any permanent enterprise. The

Russian greed.
It was in 1900 that Harbin began to assume importance as a railroad centre. One year later the population was 12,000 Russians. By October, 1903, the census showed 60,000, exclusive of soldiers. All are Russians, except 700 of Japanese and other nationalities. There are no Americans there clusive of soldiers. All are Russians, except 700 of Japanese and other nationalities. There are no Americans there.

The total administration expenditure on the city has been 30,000,000 rubles (\$15,450,000). This expenditure covers administration buildings, hospitals, railway shops, commerial school and girls school, technical school, eight elementary schools, club and store, hotel, and the Russo-Chinese Bank.

The Sungari River is navigable for 200 miles above the city, up both branches.

The railroads running from Harbin connect with seagoing ships at Newchwang, Dainy and Port Arthur.

The Russo-Chinese Bank makes a point of giving preferential advantages to Russian and Chinese merchants, but its treatment of foreigners is quite the contrary.

Harbin's leading industry is the manufacture of flour. Eight mills are now in operation, but only the smallest one has American machinery. The other industries are brick manufacturing, vodka breweries, meatpacking, confectionery and sawmills.

And all this Russia wants to bottle up for its own use and profit, in utter disregard of the legal and moral claims of nation upon nation in the progress of the world.

WALTER J. BALLARD.

in the progress of the world.

WALTER J. BALLARD. SCHENECTADY, Feb. 19.

A Demand That the War Be Stopped by Civilization.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: Whoever was responsible for this needless war in the Far East, the responsibility involves a financial centre is convulsed with anxiety the natural course of trade is disturbed, and the gravest evils are possible. It ought never to have been begun.

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ought to be settled now peacefully before the incoming of spring makes possible land operations on a great scale. If Mr. Hay diplomatic activities are to be aroused at a by this calamitous conflict they should at be expended in the interests of the restoration of peace as a result required for the order progress of the forces of civilization. Great Britain's welfare is manifestly on the same side, for the war, with its possible and proba ble complications and consequences, can b only injurious to it. The precipitation of the Eastern question into the turmoil of wa threatens industry and commerce and finanin every part of civilization

As I have already suggested, the most probable outcome of a long-continued conflict, with its exhaustion for Japan and grave injury for Russia, will be a diplomatic settlement between the two which will strengthen

the hold of both in Asia. The offices of our State Department and of every Chancellery in Europe should be compurpose of Japan and to bring about a peace ful settlement before the war goes further and inflicts still more damages on States not in cluded in it, but which may ultimately be drawn out of it if it is prolonged. Any ex pectation that Russia can be checked so riously by Japan in its progress is a phantasm The chances are rather that its advancement will receive a new and dangerous impetufrom the contest and its complications NEW YORK, Feb. 19. AN AMERICAN

Inexpensive War News.

From the Cleveland Evening Press.
The Hee, Feb. 17.—A Russian transport wa unk near the mouth of Arragowan River las night, says a despatch from Yockama. e confirmed officially in less than three weeks.

HOTTA MALE, Feb. 17 .- A special from St. Peters burg says:
"The Czar, fearing the newspapers were no printing all the news, telephoned to the editor of the Daily Zzzoff last night and said: 'I beg of you. give me the news. Let me hear the worst

'Sire,' replied the editor, there is no other kind.' PACKOLY, Feb. 17.-Despatches say firing has een heard in the harbor of Chop Suey and heavy firing of the coast of Gong-Gong.

(By Shang Hy Lire.) TINKAN, China, Feb. 17 .- That Russia is desperate own in the action of ties. Paur in ordering the execution of two war correspondents whose papers

Admiral Hobeau of the Japanese Navy seized forty valuable paintings occonging to Ruordered them sent to the Kelley Art Gallery li The fire wardens at Port Arthur have ordered

Admiral Alexies to place additional fire escapes on cruisers and battleships. They recommend that more exits be provided. The Czar has forbidden all army and navy officer from writing war articles for American magazines sia desires to retain Capt. Mahan's friend

ship, and we'll leave all that work to him," said A Burden of Names. From the London Mail

The full name of a pauper lunatic was given at Blackburn police court yesterday as Annie Marti Matilda Sophia Lucretia Cinderella Julia Hannah Martave Green. "What a dreadful burden," said